



**St Andrew's Whittlesey, St Mary's Whittlesey,
St Thomas' Pondersbridge and Holy Trinity Coates**
Church of England Team Ministry:

www.wpcteam.org.uk

Sunday 21 March 2021

Services 21st March 2021 Fifth Sunday of Lent Purple

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise
Holy Trinity Holy Communion

Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Psalm 51 1-12 Hebrews 5: 5-10 John 12: 20-33

Collect Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, now and forever.

Amen

Anniversaries 21 - 28 the March 2021

St Thomas':

Holy Trinity: John Rufus Randall, 22nd. Phillip William Stearn, 24th

St Mary's: Arthur James Lindsay, Keith Samson, 25th. Brian Cobb, Leslie Greenaway Widgery, 26th
Valerie Joan Tullis, 27th.

St Andrew's: Mark Papworth, 24th. Charles Edwin Cole, 25th. John William Turner, 27th. Peter Evan Edwards, 28th

Monday 22nd March - Saturday 28th March 2021

Monday	M P	Psalm 73	Jeremiah 21.1 - 10	John 11.28 - 44
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 35	Jeremiah 22.1 -10	John 11. 45 - end
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 55	Jeremiah 22.20 - 23.8	John 12.1 - 11
Thursday	M P	Psalm 111.113	1 Samuel 2.1 1 - 10	Romans 5.12 - end
Friday	M P	Psalm 22	Jeremiah 24	John 12.20 - 36s
Saturday	M P	Psalm 23	Jeremiah 25. 1 - 14	John 12.36b - end

Mid-week Communion Service 24th March

9.15 a.m. Holy Communion Holy Trinity, Coates

Services 28th March 2021. Palm Sunday. Red

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise
Holy Trinity Holy Communion

11.00 am St Mary's Holy Communion

A Prayer for Lent

Living God, it's easy to fool ourselves that we are observing Lent – giving up certain things, denying ourselves particular pleasures, and making fine-sounding resolutions – but deep down we know that Lent should be more than this; a time for prayer and reflection, for self-examination and renewed commitment. We come, then, seeking your will, your word, your guidance and your grace. Nurture our feeble faith and help us to put you at the centre of this season, so that we may know you better, love you more fully and serve you more effectively, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Nick Fawcett

A prayer for those who mourn Gracious God, as we remember before you the thousands who have died, surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion. Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair, and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus for daily use. Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving Prayer for Passiontide. Blessed are you Lord God of our salvation, to you be praise and glory for ever. As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief your only Son was lifted up that he might draw the whole world to himself. May we walk this day in the way of the cross and always be ready to share its weight, declaring your love for all the world. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Please remember in your prayers those who are in residential homes, hospital or hospice & those known personally to us including:

Marie Rogers, Terry Randells, Emma Aindow-Gregory, Lizzie Monk, Joan Kefford, Richard Willows, Joyce Jackson, Mary Widgery, Tony Barnett, Tom Cullup, Eunice and Brian Smithyman, John Stutley, Liz Tuckey, Janet Dale, Ken Slote, Sue Taylor.

Please remember in your prayers those who have recently died and think of their family and friends:

Alan Harris May Hearn

Margaret (Peggy) Rees Funeral 24th March 1.30 pm at Peterborough Crematorium

Mavis Connor Funeral 30th March 12.15 pm at St Andrew's followed by burial at Whittlesey Cemetery at 1 pm

Daphne Elliott Funeral 31st March 1.15 pm at St Mary's followed by Peterborough Crematorium

Wendy Cumbridge Funeral 1st April 11.00 am at Peterborough Crematorium

Peggy Cox Funeral 6th April 11.30 am at Fenland Crematorium

We continue to remember in our prayers everyone who work in the NHS.

Think of those who have worked from home and managed to continue their children's education.

We pray for the people with leadership and responsibilities locally, nationally and internationally.

To support you with your daily prayer and contact with the wider church please make use of the following websites.

Church of England. <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Prayer online. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

Diocese of Ely. <https://www.elydiocese.org/>

Ely Cathedral. <https://www.elycathedral.org/worship-at-home>

Ministry Team - Contacts

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MRS JANE RANDELLS 07870 942362 - jane.randells@gmail.com

If there is anything that we can do to help, listen, collect something, pray, that will help you through this time please be assured that we will do our very best, please use contacts above.

Notices

St Mary's It was agreed at a PCC meeting held on 16th March to resume public services at St Mary's with effect from Palm Sunday (28th March)

Lent Course This year's Lent Course is being held on Wednesday evenings from 24 Feb starting at 7.30pm. Each week we will send out the zoom codes with the Newsletter and Sunday service e-mail. There will be a Bible passage to read through and a link to follow, this will enable folk to study independently and those who may be busy for an evening to keep up. We look forward to travelling through Lent together. Here is a link to more information about the course.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story>

Additions to Newsletter If you have anything that you would like to share with members of our congregations through the Newsletter, please send to Susan Taylor the editor.

APCM Reports We don't know if these will be virtual or in person at this stage, where possible please submit reports as normal please. **Review of Electoral Rolls** Please contact your electoral roll officer if you want to be included or to change/delete your details from your respective Electoral Rolls.

2021 Lenten Collection -UNICEF Vaccination programme For our Lenten collection this year, in light of this current world wide Covid 19 pandemic, we will be supporting UNICEF. UNICEF are trying to have as many of their volunteers vaccinated so they can carry on with their worldwide vaccination of children. UNICEF says that - with help - they will deliver 2 billion Covid 19 vaccines for health workers and the most high risk people on our planet. From buying & transporting supplies through to administering the vaccine, financial donations will help deliver history. Our donations would help to ensure the vaccines get to even the remotest places in the world. £45 will provide 'cold chain' equipment to safely store 500 doses of vaccines - How many of these units could we manage to help them with? Pat Marston (07443867424) will be arranging the collection this year, so please decide in your hearts what you would like to give to this project, contact Pat to let her know, and when it is safe to do so arrange for your donation to be given to Pat who will collate the collection and keep track of how many units of 'cold chain' equipment we are able to help with. Roger will also be able to collect monies and cheques as he delivers newsletters.

Payments can be made at any time to Pat Marston. Ring her on 07443867424 to arrange delivery/collection. Cash in envelope please – just with the name of your church on the outside (your name is not necessary unless you wish to give it). Cheques – via Pat please (so we can accurately assess how many 'cold chain' units @ £45 we will have managed to contribute) made out to UNICEF UK – COVAX. If anyone is able to gift aid – just add 'gift aid – I am a UK taxpayer' to the back of your cheque or on your envelope. Our total will be announced mid/end April. Thank you all, Pat.

Please Support Our Raffle. St. Andrew's Church-The Thursday Club. We are having an Easter Raffle – an Easter Basket - to raise funds for our Thursday Club which is an outreach helping those who are lonely and socially isolated in our local community. Once a month the group meets to share a meal with our guests and transport is provided for them. We have not been able to meet since February 2020 but keep in regular contact with our guests. Due to the pandemic we envisage an even greater need for the club, and currently are trying to build up funds to ensure the meals and transport are free for our guests. If you would like to take part in our raffle (booklet of five tickets for £5.00 or £1.00 a ticket) please call or email Chris McGowen <tel:351867> or email: cmcg993@gmail.com The raffle will take place on Easter Sunday. We really would appreciate your help. Roger Brown has very kindly agreed to collect any donations for raffle tickets as he delivers the Church Newsletter. Please have ready in an envelope marked for Easter Raffle with your name and telephone number. If there is any difficulty in sending money or cheque (made out to St.Andrew's Church) he is willing to come and collect it from you. Call Roger Brown tel:202884.

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Reflections for Lent 5. Jeremiah 31:31-34. Hebrews 5;5-10. John 12: 20-31.

Today starts Passiontide. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday which begins Holy Week and the last lap of our journey with Jesus to the foot of the Cross.

In John's Gospel today the picture portrayed by Jesus is not just about his own forthcoming death but also about us. Unless we allow ourselves to experience death and the low points in life with Jesus, we cannot forgo our own lives and rise with Him to generate abundant life for many." Those who love their life will lose it and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life". Hard words but Jesus is saying that from sin and death we rise through our baptism to new life in true faith which rises supreme over death. Human experience is a cycle of loss and renewal and it is a fact of biological existence, but in terms of spiritual faith it is much more than that. The Christian journey which we reflect upon at each Sunday's worship by confession and the receipt of absolution consists of repentance of sins newly committed and fresh personal restoration. Life's journey takes us through suffering to experience renewal and new life.

The reading from John begins with a scene of some Greeks coming to Philip asking to see Jesus. After all, who would have not wanted to see Jesus? They must have heard of his miracles, turning water into wine, healing all manner of sickness, walking on water, feeding 5000 plus people with a handful of loaves and fishes, raising his best friend Lazarus from the dead and so on. The puzzling answer came back "unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies it bears new fruit" and by this Jesus highlights the spiritual significance of dying. Death is all around us but dying is more than physical. Throughout our lives we can die many times over – the pain of losing a loved-one, lifetime trauma, relationship breakdown, pain and life-threatening health problems etc which bring us anger, regret, guilt, despair, unforgiveness and fear. It is, however, in the pit of darkness, in the depths of dying, that we see Jesus because that is where he comes to us most. Through our own brokenness we have an opportunity to place ourselves in the arms of Christ trusting Him in faith to raise us up and bring us to new life.

Also, through allowing ourselves to share the grief and pain of others we join with them in their need for Christ's love, care and generosity and by standing beside them are raised with them through our Lord's blessing to new opportunities and new life. Unless we can experience the pain of these experiences in our own lives we cannot fully understand and celebrate the joy of new life in Christ.

So it is as we approach the Cross on which Jesus died. His death was only transitory because with the joy of His resurrection, we come with Him through faith to eternal and abundant life – the death of one man, the Son of Man, lead to new life for many who believed in Him. The sadness of one seed which dies, like a small boy burying a beautiful shiny chestnut brown conker hoping it will sprout into new life, turns to joy when he sees the clean green shoot appear and grow into a magnificent lofty horse chestnut tree with many branches dropping many conkers beginning the generation of new life. Such is the image that Jesus gives to the Greeks through the seed of grain which burst forth into abundant new life. There are many kinds of “death” and sacrifices on a Christian's journey through life and it is through encountering these that God opens new opportunities for us to bring Christ's Peace and the Good News of the Gospel. What John is saying is that we must not be preoccupied with death, it should hold no fear, if we learn to suffer with Christ and rise above it for the benefit of others we are surely Children of God bound for eternal life.

It is always difficult to write about death but oh so much better to write about new life – like the joy of a newly born baby – but we need to open ourselves to the process of dying with Christ and share the pain of His journey to the Cross to experience the joy of the shout of Alleluia He is Risen on Easter Day.

JC